

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3260

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6702

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, GE

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON KONZAI MILLI, AMBASSADOR OF SYRIA TO THE GDR

I MADE MY RETURN, AND FAREWELL CALL TODAY ON KONZAI MILLI, THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF SYRIA TO THE GDR. HE SPEAKS ADEQUATE ENGLISH, AND THE ONLY OTHER PARTICIPANT WAS A SYRIAN EMBASSY SECRETARY WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH.

TELLING HIM THAT, AS HE KNEW, THAT I WAS SPEAKING AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND NOT ON ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE U.S., I ASKED HIM HIS VIEWS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON. WHEN HE CALLED ON ME ON AUGUST 31 HE COULD ONLY SAY THAT HE HOPED FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. TODAY HE SAID, THAT WHILE HE WAS CAUTIOUS, HE BELIEVED PROGRESS WAS BEGINNING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT AND GAVE THE FOLLOWING REASONS WHICH I AM SURE HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, WHOM HE DID NOT NAME, ARE MEETING IN CAIRO TODAY WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND HE BELIEVES THAT A START WILL BE MADE TOWARD COMPOSING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE INFORMED ME THAT TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 16, SULEIMAN FRANGIA, PRESIDENT OF LEBANON, ARAFAT, AND, AS I UNDERSTOOD HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER OF SYRIA WOULD MEET IN LEBANON TO DISCUSS MEANS TOWARD REACHING A SETTLEMENT.

IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR MILLI, SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE AN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AN INTERVENTION THAT WAS OF NO HELP TO THEM. IT HAD CREATED DIFFERENCES AMONG THE PALES-

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TINIANS AND HAD DIVIDED ARAB COUNTRIES IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE

PALESTINIANS. AGAIN HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW, BUT CAUTIOUSLY, THAT THESE DEVELOPMENT COULD BE SUCCESSFUL TOWARD A SETTLEMENT AND THE END OF THE WAR. HE MADE NO OTHER COMMENTS ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND DID NOT MENTION ISRAEL.COOPER

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